

- (v) A separate counter may be opened for payment of bills for the senior citizens.
- (vi) Effective steps to be introduced to get rid of corruption in telephone department.
- (vii) Telephone bills to be sent through courier agencies instead of through post office to ensure the delivery.
- (viii) Billing information to be provided on internet so that subscriber can download duplicate bills as and when required.
- (ix) Dynamic locking facility to be provided to subscriber having STD barred telephone.
- (x) Fast dialing facility to be given to all the subscribers including those in rural areas.
- (xi) The telephone connection forms are free. They should be priced and the price can be very nominal.
- (d) (i) The Interactive Voice Responses System for complaint booking has been introduced in some of the exchanges and steps are being taken to provide the same in other exchanges.
- (ii) The analysis of faults booked and cleared by each section has been introduced in the Nehru Ground Exchange. It will be extended to other exchanges.
- (iii) The tone dialing facility for fast dialing is already provided to all the subscribers in EWSD exchanges. It is not technically possible to provide this to all subscribers in E-10B exchanges and Rural exchanges.
- (iv) The other suggestions are being examined for taking appropriate action.

Agreement with Netherlands based digital future investments

2592. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have finalised the agreement with Netherlands

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based Digital Future Investments to float a 100 per cent Indian firm to provide engineering facilities and also provide third party technical services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the impact of this venture on domestic radio broadcasters, telecom operators, public authorities and providing services to global markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) M/s Digital Future Investments B.V. Netherlands have been permitted by FIPB to establish wholly owned subsidiary. The company will undertake the following activities:

- (i) To construct, design, install, operate and maintain engineering facilities and to provide third party technical services to duly licensed broadcasters, telecommunications operators and public authorities;
 - (ii) To use India as the base for providing technical services to global markets in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. It is relevant to mention that the Subsidiary will neither produce nor own content;
 - (iii) To undertake research and development activities in the field of technical services for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors;
 - (iv) To provide third party consultancy in the field of technical services to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors; and
 - (v) To develop and train indigenous manpower in the field of technical services rendered to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors.
- (c) The project will have the following benefits to India:
- (i) The Subsidiary shall bring in India the world's leading player in the development of over-the-air digital infrastructure and networks;
 - (ii) The subsidiary shall establish high end capital expenditure infrastructure facilities for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors in India;
 - (iii) There will be a substantial inflow of foreign exchange as the expected investments into India are in the range of US\$ 500 million within a five (5) years period.

- (iv) The Subsidiary shall introduce into the Indian market technical services of ISO 9001 standards as provided to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors worldwide;
- (v) The Subsidiary shall offer technical expertise and know-how in the field of network services to the broadcasting and telecommunications sector that is not presently available in India; and
- (vi) The subsidiary will be the base for Telediffusion de France International S.A. (TDF) global expansion into new markets and shall generate additional foreign exchange earnings for the country,

Expansion of communication in Assam

2593. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken so far any concrete and effective steps for expansion and development of better communication system in the insurgency infested areas like Haflong, Maibang, Diyungmukh, Hamren Sub-Division etc. in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes sir, The detail are given in the enclosed Statement

Statement

Development work completed in the four insurgency infested areas of State of Assam

Haflong	3024 line MBM exchange is working with 2046 connections. There is waiting list for 162 connections Haflong is connected with Silchar with 120 channel a digital Microwave system.
Maibang	256 P exchange is working with 190 connections and there is demand for 64 connections. One SBM, 512 line exchange is planned for the year 2001-2002. At the moment it is connected